

IMPACT OF WELFARE SCHEMES AS PERCEIVED BY SC BENEFICIARIES

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ABSTRACT

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes comprise about 16.6 percent and 8.6 percent, respectively, of India's population (Census of India, 2011). The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 lists 1,108 castes across 25 states in its First Schedule, and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 lists 744 tribes across 22 states in its First Schedule. In Haryana, about 19.3 per cent population is Scheduled Caste, of which a majority (78.5 per cent) is residing in rural areas. Present study was conducted in Hisar District of Haryana state, purposively. Five villages having predominately large number of Scheduled Caste population were selected. Forty women from each village (total 200) were selected randomly. Well structured pre-tested interview schedules were developed for respondents. Social status on various parameters was perceived as improved and slightly improvement by most of respondents. Maximum impact was seen in terms of education (2.58) followed by health and sanitation (2.48), community action (2.45) and miscellaneous (2.35). Regarding economic impact maximum impact was observed in terms of 'assets' (2.71) followed by 'income' (2.43), 'information search' (2.19) and 'employment' (2.13). Majority of respondents were satisfied with the schemes, yet some were dissatisfied as they did not get full benefit of the schemes.

KEYWORDS: Scheduled Caste and Perceived Impact

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INTRODUCTION

People belonging to SC communities are spread all over the country, with 80% of them living in the rural areas. According to Census of India 2001, Scheduled Caste constitutes 19.3% of total population of Haryana which is higher than all India's average of 16 percent. A critical look at India's development experience since 1950 reveals that the socio-economic progress made since independence has not been fair, fast and equitable in everybody's experience - particularly of those belonging to the weaker sections of society like women, children, Dalits and Adivasis. Despite providing reservation quotas in jobs, the representation of SCs and STs in the higher levels of all public services remains poor.

Further percentage of literate persons aged 7 years and above, among SC population of Haryana is 55.4%, which is considerably lower than 67.9 percent of state population as a whole. The female literacy rate (42.3%) among SC population as compared to 55.7 percent for female population.

The scheduled castes are characterized by the lowest social or ritual status in the caste hierarchy as well as by poor economic conditions. That Indian society is passing through a phase of active social change will not be disputed by many. In a sense, the impact of change appears more striking among the lower strata of society, because these strata had remained relatively immobile in the past and at present they have been provided with special opportunities.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Hisar District of Haryana state. From Hisar, five villages having predominately high Scheduled Caste population were selected randomly. From the selected village, 40 SC respondents were selected randomly, thus making total sample of 200. Data were collected with the help of a well structured interview schedule by the researcher itself.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Perceived Impact of Welfare Schemes on Social Status of SC Families

It can be seen from the data presented in table 1 that regarding impact of welfare schemes on health & sanitation, most of the respondents perceived maximum impact in terms of 'institution delivery' (2.74WMS), followed by 'source of water supply' (2.64WMS) and 'women/children regularly visiting a health clinic' (2.61WMS).

Fair improvement in 'immunization' (2.57), 'sanitation condition' (2.56) and 'child mortality' (2.51) was also observed while for 'age at marriage' (2.19) and 'main childhood diseases' (2.06) impact seen was low. In overall, all the aspects were reported as improved and slightly improved by most of the respondents with weighted mean score of 2.48 as against maximum of 3.0.

As regards educational impact, maximum improvement was seen in 'children enrolment in school' (2.88). Improvement was also seen in 'youth, adult enrolment in training, skills upgrading' (2.69) and 'girl's dropout-rate' (2.61). However, minimum improvement was observed for 'highest educational level attained by any member of household' (2.40) and 'adult literacy rate' (2.34). The overall impact was rated as improved and slightly improved by most of the respondents with weighted mean score of 2.58.

Regarding community action, highest weighted mean score was seen in 'number of community organizations' (2.81) and 'mixing with other castes' (2.79) followed by 'active membership of community organization' (2.46), and 'attitude of superior castes' (2.45). Thus, except for community action projects where maximum respondents perceived no changes, for all other aspects improved or slightly improved responses were obtained with overall weighted mean score of 2.45.

Table 1: Perceived Impact of Welfare Schemes on Social Status of SC Families (N=200)

Sr. No.	Changes in Status	Response Category			Weighted Mean Score
		Improved	Slightly Improved	No Change	
1.	Health & sanitation				
	Source of water supply.	129	71	0	2.64
	Sanitation condition	113	87	0	2.56
	Child mortality	103	97	0	2.51
	Childhood diseases	13	187	0	2.06
	Age at marriage	38	162	0	2.19
	Immunization.	115	85	0	2.57
	Women/children regularly visiting a health clinic.	123	77	0	2.61
	Institution delivery.	149	51	0	2.74
	Total Scores	97.88	102.12	0	2.48

Table 1: Contd.,					
2.	Education				
	Adult literacy rate.	69	131	0	2.34
	Highest educational level attained by any member of household.	81	119	0	2.40
	Children enrolment in school.	176	24	0	2.88
	Girl's dropout-rate.	123	77	0	2.61
	Youth, adult enrolment in training, skills upgrading.	138	62	0	2.69
	Total Scores	117.4	82.6	0	2.58
3.	Community Action				
	No. of community organizations.	163	37	0	2.81
	Active membership of community organizations.	93	107	0	2.46
	Community-action projects.	43	67	90	1.76
	Mixing with other castes.	159	41	0	2.79
	Attitude of superior castes.	90	110	0	2.45
	Total Mean Scores	109.6	72.4	18.0	2.45
4.	Miscellaneous –				
	Self-assessed local pride.	37	163	0	2.18
	Awareness of current events	79	90	31	2.24
	Awareness of schemes	130	70	0	2.65
	Total Scores	82.0	107.7	10.3	2.35

As regards miscellaneous, maximum impact was seen for 'awareness of schemes' (2.65) followed by 'awareness of current events' (2.24) and 'self-assesses local pride' (2.18).

The overall impact was rated as improved and slightly improved by most of the respondents with weighted mean score of 2.35.

It can thus be concluded from the table that social status on various parameters was perceived as improved and slightly improvement by most of respondents. The weighted mean scores show that maximum impact was seen in terms of education (2.58) followed by health and sanitation (2.48), community action (2.45) and miscellaneous (2.35).

Table 2: Perceived Impact of Welfare Schemes on Economic Status of SC Families

It is clear from the data presented in table 2 that regarding impact in terms of income, most of the respondents had perceived maximum improvement in 'average daily wage for unskilled labour/agricultural worker' (3.0) followed by 'Savings/Bank deposits'(3.0). Majority of respondents also reported improvement in 'household income' (2.89) and 'no. of households above poverty line' (2.62). However, slightly improvement was reported regarding 'availability of credit' (2.32) while no change was observed regarding 'repayment of loan' (1.27) and 'changes in household budget' (1.93). Weighted mean score of 2.43 as against maximum of 3.0 was obtained.

As regards employment, maximum impact was seen in terms of 'ratio of employed to unemployed adults, youth' (2.81) followed by 'adoption of improved household technology' (2.12). Majority reported slightly improved in terms of 'households engaged in enterprises' (1.95) while no change was observed in 'occupation of heads of household' (1.61). The overall weighted mean score for perceived impact In employment was 2.13.

Table 2: Perceived Impact of Welfare Schemes on Economic Status of SC Families (N = 200)

Sr. No.	Changes in Status	Response Category			Weighted Mean Score
		Improved	Slightly Improved	No Change	
1.	Income				
	Changes in household income.	179	21	0	2.89
	No. of households above poverty line.	123	77	0	2.62
	Average daily wage for unskilled labour/ agricultural worker.	200	0	0	3.0
	Savings/Bank deposits.	200	0	0	3.0
	Availability of credit.	63	137	0	2.32
	Repayment of loan.	13	27	160	1.27
	Change in household budget.	83	20	97	1.93
	Total Scores	123.0	40.3	36.7	2.43
2.	Employment				
	Occupation of heads of households	24	74	102	1.61
	Employed to unemployed adults, youth.	163	37	0	2.82
	Households engaged in enterprises.	59	71	70	1.95
	Households adopting improved technology, new products.	23	177	0	2.12
	Total Scores	67.25	89.75	43.0	2.13
3.	Assets				
	Owning specified consumer goods.	167	33	0	2.84
	Owning a vehicle.	83	117	0	2.42
	New construction/ major repairing of home	169	31	0	2.85
	Electricity connection.	143	57	0	2.72
	Total Scores	140.5	59.5	0	2.71
4.	Information Source				
	Cable TV/ Dish TV	110	90	0	2.55
	Newspapers	27	10	163	1.23
	Mobiles	200	0	0	3.0
	Magazines	13	7	1800	1.16
	Internet	0	35	165	1.17
	Total Scores	70.0	28.4	101.6	1.82

Regarding ownership of assets, majority of respondents perceived improvement in 'construction/repair of home' (2.85) followed by 'owning specified consumer goods' (2.84), 'electricity connection' (2.72) and 'owning vehicle' (2.42)

As far as perceived impact on information sources was concerned, cent percent had acquired mobiles, majority perceived improvements in owning of 'cable/dish T.V.' (2.55). However, no changes were observed in subscribing magazines and no change was reporting newspapers and internet search by majority of respondents with weighted mean score of 1.23 and 1.16 respectively. The comparative perceived impact as shown in figure. Reveals that maximum impact was observed in terms of 'assets' (2.71) followed by 'income' (2.43), 'information search' (2.19) and 'employment' (2.13).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Findings revealed that Perceived impact of welfare schemes revealed maximum impact of education schemes followed by health & sanitation, community action and others. Majority of respondents perceived welfare schemes as highly successful. They perceived moderate changes in condition of SC families compared to last 10 years and observed positive changes in economic conditions of SC families after implementation of schemes.

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